

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 040144

EXDIS CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, RH, SF

SUBJECT: SOUTHERN AFRICA: FCO OFFICIAL HOLDS DISCUSSIONS
WITH SENIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

1. SIR ANTHONY DUFF, DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR AFRICA AND
THE MIDDLE EAST, FCO, VISITED THE DEPARTMENT ON FEBRUARY
13 FOR DISCUSSIONS OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES WITH UNDER
SECRETARY SISCO, COUNSELOR SONNENFELDT, AND DEPUTY ASST.
SECRETARIES SOBER AND MULCAHY. MEMCONS FOLLOW BY POUCH.
SIR ANTHONY HAD JUST VISITED CAPE TOWN AS A SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF PRIME MINISTER WILSON. HE MET IN SOUTH AFRICA
WITH PRIME MINISTER VORSTER AND SENIOR DEPT. OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OFFICIALS TO URGE SAG EXERT GREATER PRESSURE ON
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IAN SMITH REGIME TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH ANC AND TO CUT

RAIL LINK WITH RHODESIA. DUFF REPORTED FAILURE ON BOTH POINTS. VORSTER TOLD HIM SOUTH AFRICANS AGAINST SANCTIONS IN PRINCIPLE AND THAT FURTHER PRESSURE ON SMITH COULD REBOUND AGAINST VORSTER IN SOUTH AFRICA.

2. ON ANGOLA DUFF FELT IT NECESSARY TO GET SOUTH AFRICANS TO WITHDRAW AND ENCOURAGE STABILITY EVEN UNDER MPLA REGIME SO THAT MPLA DEPENDENCE ON SOVIETS AND CUBANS COULD BE LESSENERED. THIS IS ONLY WAY, BRITISH SAID, TO PREVENT SPREAD OF SOVIET/CUBAN INFLUENCE IN AREA. DUFF FELT LITTLE CAN BE DONE PREVENT MPLA FROM BECOMING DOMINANT FORCE IN ANGOLA AND THE QUICKER THIS HAPPENS THE BETTER. LONGER STRUGGLE WOULD MAKE MPLA INCREASINGLY DEPENDENT ON SOVIETS AND CUBANS. SAG OFFICIAL (BRAND FOURIE) ASSURED DUFF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS IN ANGOLA ONLY: TO PROTECT CUNENE INSTALLATIONS; TO LOOK AFTER REFUGEE CAMPS; AND TO COPE WITH SWAPO. IF SOUTH AFRICANS COULD GET SATISFACTION ON FIRST TWO POINTS, THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO WITHDRAW THEIR FORCES FROM ANGOLA AS THIRD REASON ALONE NOT ENOUGH TO KEEP THEM THERE.

3. DUFF REPORTS RHODESIANS APPARENTLY CONVINCED THE SAG AND THE "WEST" WILL SUPPORT THEM IF THEIR SITUATION DEVELOPS INTO SHOWDOWN. ANC DIFFERENCES ALSO PLAY INTO THE SMITH REGIME'S HANDS. THE ZAMBIANS ARE FED UP WITH NKOMO AND ARE WITHDRAWING SUPPORT FROM HIM EXCEPT FOR SECRETARIAL ASSISTANCE. BRITISH HAD NO SUGGESTIONS AS TO WHAT EITHER OF US MIGHT DO AT THIS STAGE TO FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS BUT SAID THEY WOULD CONSIDER MATTER AND BE IN TOUCH.

4. DUFF FELT AFTER DISCUSSIONS WITH FOURIE ON NAMIBIA THAT SAG HAS NO IDEA OF DANGERS IT FACES THERE NOR OF URGENCY OF REACHING SOME SOLUTION. WE TOLD DUFF WE EXPECT TO BE IN TOUCH WITH BRITISH AND FRENCH WITHIN NEAR FUTURE TO DISCUSS FURTHER APPROACH TO SOUTH AFRICANS ON NAMIBIA. INGERSOLL

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